REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were examined. Applicant has cancelled claims 3, 16 and 17, and amended claims 1-2, 13, 15, 24-25, 31 and 32. No claims newly presented. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference signs not mentioned in the specification:

Figure 2: Reference number 208 and the "tape guide" is not in the specification.

Figure 7: Reference number 702 is on Figure 7 but is not in the specification.

Figure 11: Reference number 1100 is not in the specification.

Figure 2 is amended to delete reference number 208 and the words "tape guide".

Figure 7 is amended to delete reference number 702.

Figure 11 is amended to delete the reference number 1100.

Appliant submits proposed redlined Figures 2, 7 and 11 with the above amendments.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 11, lines 11-23: References are made to different parts (with brand names) for Figure 2, but are not on the drawing.

Applicant has amended the specification to remove brand names to identify different parts. Applicant respectfully points out that the different parts at issue are not positively claimed. Therefore, it is not necessary to show these parts in the figures.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-37 are rejected under §102(b) as anticipated by Noyama, et al. (US 5,235,164). This ground of rejection is respectively traversed.

In one embodiment of the present invention, as set forth in claim 1, a method is provided for controlling a production operation. Printed information is electronically read from at least one component tape at intervals along the at least one component tape. The printed information includes a count of at least one electronic component. The count indicates a position of the at least one electronic on the component tape. At least one production device is automatically controlled using the printed information by, (i) verifying components of at least one production

position by accessing a component database, (ii) verifying equivalent components of the at least one production position from an alternative component database and (iii) verifying that at least one rule is satisfied using a rule database.

Noyama provides a parts managing section and a parts mounting machine. Parts are mounted on a parts cassette, a reel code is then read, and the parts name and initial quantity of parts on the parts cassette are written. The parts cassette is placed on a parts mounting machine. The parts name is read, and a determination made to see if it is in position. The parts mounting operation then begins. The current quantity of parts held by the machine is read. An advance notice of a parts shortage is provided. The parts cassette is replaced, the parts mounting operation is terminated and the parts cassette is removed from the parts mounting machine.

Noyama does not do the following: (i) verify components of at least one production position by accessing a component database, (ii) verify equivalent components of the at least one production position from an alternative component database and (iii) verify that at least one rule is satisfied using a rule database. Noyama does not have three databases that does the preceding verification, as does the embodiment set forth in claim 1 of the present invention.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Docket No. 26690-0712).

Respectfully submitted,

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